

Lanier County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session Minutes
April 9, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.
Annex Building (162 W. Thigpen Ave, Lakeland, Georgia 31635)

Commissioners Present

Chairman Alex Lee
Commissioner Paul Brockington
Commissioner Harold Simpson
Commissioner Susan Bowling
Commissioner Dennis Fender
County Administrator Neil Ginty
Interim County Clerk Jordan Kline

Chairman Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

EMS District Commander Scott Fountain gave the invocation and led in the pledge of allegiance.

The agenda was presented before the board. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the agenda; Commissioner Bowling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The minutes for the regular session held on March 12, 2018 were presented. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Brockington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

New Business

Natalie Howell presented the FY 2017 Annual Report for the Lanier County Department of Family and Children Services before the board. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program directly paid a total of \$15,250.00 – serving six families and ten children per month. There were 693 Medical Assistance cases for FY 2017: 412 Right from the Start Medicaid cases, 185 Low Income Medicaid cases, and 96 other Medicaid cases. Food stamps issued in FY 2017 totaled \$3,359,918 – averaging 1,047 households per month. Sixty-three children received childcare, totaling \$102,738 in expenditures. There were 220 reports made to Child Protective Services during SFY 2017. Lanier County began the fiscal year with 53 children in DFCS custody, and ended the fiscal year with 53 children in DFCS custody. Foster Care annual expenditures totaled \$62,059. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept this report; Commissioner Brockington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Harrison Tillman came before the board to present Lanier County's Annual Financial Report for FY2017. Tillman reported that Lanier County's cash assets were in a great position totaling \$2,957,772. The general fund balance was \$2,221,269, a six month reserve – which Tillman stated was excellent. In FY2017, Lanier County had a total revenue of \$5,225,363, and total expenditures of \$5,172,954. Administrator Ginty asked Tillman if there is anything the county can do operationally to make improvements; Tillman responded the biggest concern coming up will most likely be health insurance costs.

Sharon Rogers spoke to the board in regards to issues with animal control. Rogers stated on March 30th she called Animal Control about a dog that killed her cat in her yard; it is thought that a neighbor keeps their gate open and their dog gets out, harassing neighboring animals. There was confusion on whether deputies or animal control would write tickets in these events. Stacy Jones with Alapaha Animal Control spoke to the board stating they did not receive any reports of the dog until this event, and – upon arrival – the police officer told Animal Control there was not enough evidence to write a ticket. Administrator Ginty stated he would look into the issue and get the Magistrate Court, Sheriff's Office, and Animal Control together to develop a resolution.

Administrative Report

Administrator Ginty started his monthly report by recognizing Tony King and Buddy Joe Browning for their hard work at the library's anniversary ceremony. Ginty also recognized Clifford Hall with the American Legion for putting up the many flags during Lanier Loves Moody week. Lastly, Ginty stated there would be a Car Show at the Threatte Center on June 2nd with the proceeds going towards the new park.

Financial Report

Interim County Clerk Jordan Kline gave the financial report, stating total revenue for Lanier County is at 76.04% and total expenses are at 78.86%.

Department Reports

EMS Department

Commander Fountain gave the EMS report for March. There were 169 calls in the month.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Gary Yeomans gave the Fire Department report for March. There was a total of thirty-five calls. Of the total calls, ten were in the city limits; six of those being paid for a total of \$1,080. The twenty-five remaining calls that were in the county had thirteen being paid for a total of \$2,000. The fire department purchased a new fire truck from Texas, and Chief Yeomans suggested the county surplus an old E-9 fire truck. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to surplus the truck; Commissioner Fender seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Road Department

Road Superintendent Bob Moore was not present at the meeting to give the Road Department's March report.

EMA Department

EMA Director Randy Patten reported he found two signs at the river have been taken and two other signs have bullet holes in them. Patten hopes to begin conducting safety classes for churches and the county.

Parks/Recreation Department

Park Director Will Watson reported the park plans to have opening day for spring sports on April 14th and would like to recognize board member Jimmy Benefield before the first game. There are now twenty-seven teams – approximately 325 kids – in the spring sport program.

Family Connection

Amy Lollis with Family Connection presented the April 2018 calendar for Lanier County Family Connection before the board. Lollis also stated she is in the process of writing a grant with the Safecare Program as well as another grant for substance abuse.

Citizens Comments

Karen Abbott spoke before the board requesting an update on her previous request for temporary, partial road closure; Administrator Ginty stated Lanier County's attorney, Suzanne Mathis, is still researching on this process.

Executive Session

Commissioner Fender made a motion to go into executive session; Commissioner Bowling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

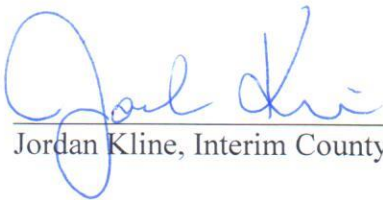
Commissioner Simpson made a motion to exit executive session; Commissioner Brockington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

With no further business brought before the board, Chairman Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fender seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lanier County Board of Commissioners



Alex Lee, Chairman



Jordan Kline, Interim County Clerk